

14 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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Deputy Director, NIC/AG

FROM:

George Kolt  
National Intelligence Officer for Europe

SUBJECT:

NIO/EUR Input for DCI's Annual Report to Congress

The major events of 1985 in Europe with implications for intelligence were:

- Gorbachev's Accession to Power. The selection of a vigorous new leader in Moscow increases the possibility of a more vigorous assertion of Soviet control in Eastern Europe and of a more appealing propaganda campaign toward Western Europe. It has created both hopes and fears in Eastern Europe that he may push for a more effective utilization of resources and for leadership changes. In Western Europe the Soviet Union has still not overcome the effects of its failed war scare propaganda regarding INF, but Gorbachev is nevertheless attempting to project the image of a man who understands and is sympathetic to Western European concerns. The Intelligence Community has been monitoring these developments.

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- The Mixed Reception to SDI Among European Allies. Although the Allies are slowly coming around to participate in SDI research, a number of Europeans still harbor grave reservations about the project and some oppose it outright. There is general agreement in the Atlantic community that SDI will have a major impact on Western security--but disagreement on whether it will be positive or negative. The Intelligence Community will continue to monitor the evolution of Western European views on it.

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- The Increase of Terrorism in Europe. The December massacres at the Vienna and Rome airports were but the latest manifestation of increased terrorism in Europe. The Intelligence Community has been at the forefront in developing good information about terrorist groups and activities and in creating international links to combat it. In addition, both terrorism and counterterrorist efforts have had an impact on Western alliance cohesion, most notably on US-Italian relations in the aftermath of the Archille Lauro affair.

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- Belgian INF Deployment. The Martens government did not falter in its commitment to deploy GLCMs and saw itself vindicated in the October elections. The Intelligence Community played an important role in assessing Belgium's strategy prior to the deployment.

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- A Third Hard Winter in Romania. Ceausescu's continued misrule threatened to undermine domestic stability and Romania's ability to hold to its maverick positions within the Warsaw Pact.

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- "Gleichschaltung" Bulgarian Style. In neighboring Bulgaria the government engaged in a weird and brutal campaign to change demographic realities by forcing ethnic Turks, who constitute about 1/10 of the Bulgarian population, to slavivize their names. The Intelligence Community carefully monitored this campaign and helped bring into the open this willful abuse of human rights by the Bulgarian communist government.

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-- Poland's Deceptive Quiet. Finally, in Poland the government continued to rule by gradually increasing repression but was unable to lay the groundwork for national reconciliation or to develop ways by which Poland could escape from its economic crisis.

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